

Serial No. 09/700,172
Amendment Dated: 02/11/2004
Reply to Office Action: 01/21/2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) Fuel system for a motor vehicle with a fuel container from which a fuel pump transports fuel via fuel pipelines from a system input location in the fuel container via a fuel filter towards an engine,

wherein a deposition tank is formed into a housing of the fuel filter under a filter material, which is provided in the housing, into which said tank dirt filtered out of the fuel is deposited, and

wherein a pressure accumulator is installed in the fuel system which accumulates and stores fuel when the engine is running and after the engine is switched off, the fuel stored in the pressure accumulator rinses the fuel filter to thereby operatively deposit said dirt into said tank, and

wherein a delay valve is installed upstream of the pressure accumulator, so that after starting of the engine the pressure accumulator is filled with the fuel subject to a time delay.

9. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 8, wherein a portion of the fuel is transportable via the fuel pump into the pressure accumulator when the engine is running, and after the engine has been switched

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off, the fuel stored in the pressure accumulator is flowable through the fuel filter removing the dirt deposited in the filter material.

10. (Currently Amended) Fuel system ~~according to claim 8, for a motor vehicle with a fuel container from which a fuel pump transports fuel via fuel pipelines from a system input location in the fuel container via a fuel filter towards an engine,~~

wherein a deposition tank is formed into a housing of the fuel filter under a filter material, which is provided in the housing, into which said tank dirt filtered out of the fuel is deposited, and

wherein a pressure accumulator is installed in the fuel system which accumulates and stores fuel when the engine is running and after the engine is switched off, the fuel stored in the pressure accumulator rinses the fuel filter to thereby operatively deposit said dirt into said tank, and

wherein a non-return valve is provided in the fuel pipeline leading to the engine after a branch point at which the fuel pipeline leading to the pressure accumulator is located.

11. (Currently Amended) Fuel system ~~according to claim 8, for a motor vehicle with a fuel container from which a fuel pump transports fuel via fuel pipelines from a system input location in the fuel container via a fuel filter towards an engine,~~

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wherein a deposition tank is formed into a housing of the fuel filter under a filter material, which is provided in the housing, into which said tank dirt filtered out of the fuel is deposited, and

wherein a pressure accumulator is installed in the fuel system which accumulates and stores fuel when the engine is running and after the engine is switched off, the fuel stored in the pressure accumulator rinses the fuel filter to thereby operatively deposit said dirt into said tank, and

wherein a pressure regulator is provided towards the engine from a non-return valve.

12. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 10, wherein a pressure regulator is provided towards the engine from the non-return valve.

13. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 11, wherein the fuel filter is connected to the fuel pump on a pressure side of the pump.

14. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 11, wherein the fuel filter is connected to the fuel pump on a suction side of the pump.

15. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 8, wherein the fuel filter is connected to the fuel pump on a pressure side of the pump.

16. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 8, wherein the fuel filter is connected to the fuel pump on a suction side of the pump.

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17. (Previously Presented) A fuel system for a motor vehicle with a fuel container from which a fuel pump transports fuel via fuel pipelines from a system input location in the fuel container via a fuel filter towards an engine,

wherein a deposition tank is formed into a housing of the fuel filter under a filter material, which is provided in the housing, into which said tank dirt filtered out of the fuel is deposited,

wherein a pressure accumulator is installed in the fuel system which accumulates and stores fuel when the engine is running and after the engine is switched off, the fuel stored in the pressure accumulator rinses the fuel filter,

wherein a pressure regulator is provided towards the engine from a non-return valve,

wherein the fuel filter is connected to the fuel pump on a pressure side of the pump, and

wherein a delay valve is installed upstream of the pressure accumulator, so that after starting of the engine the pressure accumulator is filled with the fuel subject to a time delay.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 17, wherein, in the housing, guide vanes are provided which prevent the fuel flowing through

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the filter material from touching or disturbing the dirt collected in the deposition tank.

20. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 10, wherein, in the housing, guide vanes are provided which prevent the fuel flowing through the filter material from touching or disturbing the dirt collected in the deposition tank.

21. (Previously Presented) Fuel system according to claim 8, wherein, in the housing, guide vanes are provided which prevent the fuel flowing through the filter material from touching or disturbing the dirt collected in the deposition tank.

22 – 28. (Canceled)